

Pediatric Cardiology and Surgery

A Special Issue of the *Texas Heart Institute Journal*

This special issue comprises articles that together provide a concise review of recent advances in pediatric cardiology and pediatric cardiovascular surgery.

In the cardiology section, our contributors examine pediatric risk factors for acquired heart disease and the currently recommended interventions, as an important beginning to a program of lifelong prevention; specific anticoagulation and thrombolysis treatments in children; and the socioeconomic difficulties so unnecessarily encountered by many adults with repaired congenital heart disease. Other writers consider procedures that bridge disciplines, affecting (and being affected by) both surgeons and cardiologists: cardiac catheterization and stent placement, intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography, and pacemaker therapy.

The surgery section reviews special pediatric considerations in anesthesia and cardiopulmonary bypass, explores the imaginative and technically demanding field of fetal surgery, and outlines modern surgical approaches to aortic coarctation repair, the arterial switch procedure, and complex Fontan operations. The surgical treatment of tachyarrhythmias, as reviewed here, probably should be the standard against which new radio-frequency ablation techniques are measured.

We editors are indebted to our contributors, who have joined forces to produce an educational and thoroughly enjoyable monograph. Future directions will unfold as a result of such incisive thinking as these articles reveal.

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